

Customer No.: 31561
Application No.: 10/605,122
Docket No.: 9165-US-PA-OP

REMARKS

It is noted with great appreciation that the Office Action considers claims 23-25 as allowed and claims 4-6, 8-10 and 18-21 as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In addition, the Office Action has objected to the disclosure because of informalities.

In response thereto, Applicants have amended the specification. Applicants have also amended claims 1 and 16 and canceled claims 4 and 18 without disclaimer, prejudice or waiver. More specifically, claims 4 and 18 have been canceled and independent claims 1 and 16 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 4 and 18, respectively, which the Examiner considered as allowable subject matter. Applicants have canceled the aforementioned claims merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose.

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reason set forth hereinbefore, Applicants submit that the rejections to claim 1-3, 7, 11-17 and 22 been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated and that the now pending claims 1-3, 5-17, 19-25 are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,

Date :

Sept 15, 2004

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